

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-06
OMB-01 /071 W
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R 161258Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0796
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 2591

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, FI
SUBJECT: FINNISH OFFICIALS SEIZED ELEVEN KILOS OF HEROIN

1. ON DEC 14 FINNISH CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AT HELSINKI SEUTULA AIRPORT SEIZED 11 KILOS OF ALMOST PURE HEROIN AND APPREHENDED MAN (34) AND WOMAN (25) WHO WERE TRAVELING WITH SINGAPOREAN PASSPORTS. UNUSUAL ITINERARY AND STRANGE BEHAVIOR OF MAN AND WOMAN ATTRACTED ATTENTION OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WHO DISCOVERED "NUMBER THREE" HEROIN IN 28 CANS WHICH BORE VARIOUS LANGUAGE FRUIT, CLAM AND BEAN LABELS. APPREHENDED MAN AND WOMAN ARRIVED FROM FRANKFURT AT 1730 HRS ON LUFTHANSA FLIGHT. THEIR PASSPORTS INDICATED EXTENSIVE TRAVEL THROUGHOUT EUROPE AND FAR EAST.

2. THE 11 KILOS OF HEROIN CONSTITUTES FINLAND'S LARGEST DRUG SEIZURE. PREVIOUS SEIZURES OF HEROIN HAVE BEEN MEASURED IN TENS OF GRAMS. LOCAL DRUG CONTROL AUTHORITIES ESTIMATE THAT STREET VALUE OF 11 KILOS OF HEROIN IS NEARLY 8 MILLION DOLLARS. WHOLESALE VALUE IS ESTIMATED AT SLIGHTLY LESS THAN
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ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

3. FINNISH AUTHORITIES THINK THAT SEIZED HEROIN WAS IN TRANSIT TO DISTRIBUTION POINTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE. THEY ALSO THINK THAT RECENT TIGHTENING OF DRUG CONTROLS IN STOCKHOLM AND OSLO MAY HAVE DIVERTED THE HEROIN TO HELSINKI. DURING LAST

MONTH FINNISH DRUG CONTROL HAS BEEN STRINGENT AND AS RESULT OF THIS CASE CONTROL WILL LIKELY BECOME MORE STRINGENT.

4. APPREHENDED MAN AND WOMAN WILL BE CHARGED UNDER FINNISH LAW WITH SMUGGLING OF DRUGS WHICH COULD RESULT IN MAXIMUM TEN YEAR SENTENCE. FINLAND AND SINGAPORE DO NOT HAVE EXTRA-DITION TREATY.

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Message Attributes

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